

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

41-foot Research Vessels

Delivered June 2008

Builder: Seemann Composites Inc.,
Gulfport, Miss.

Design: Advanced composite/
fiberglass catamaran

Length: 41 feet

Beam: 14 feet

Draft: 4 feet (approximate)

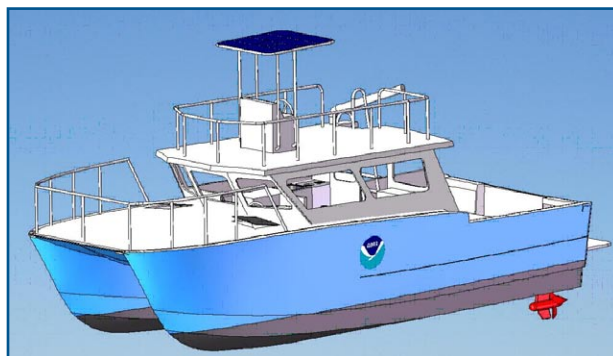
Propulsion: Cummins-Mercruiser Zeus drives

Speed: 28 knots

Fuel: Diesel/biodiesel

Capacity: Day trip capacity for 10 people; overnight capacity for 4

Range: 300 nautical miles



NOAA's two new 41-foot catamaran research vessels are designed to conduct dive operations, inflatable skiff operations, emergency response missions, education and outreach, and small-scale research operations. The vessels are assigned to Channel Islands and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale national marine sanctuaries, and will greatly enhance the ability of sanctuary staff to expand the geographic and technological range of site operations.

The two 41-footers are nearly identical in design, and are the first of their class in the National Marine Sanctuary System's inventory. The size and capacity of this new class of small boats will allow a modest crew to overnight aboard the vessels, and will provide safe working platforms for research, rescue, training and educational operations for up to 10 people.

One of the vessels will serve Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, where it will supplement and enhance the missions already conducted aboard the R/V *Shearwater*. The other 41-footer, which will undergo testing and evaluation in the National Marine Sanctuary System's Gulf of Mexico and Southeast Region, is scheduled to be delivered to Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in FY09. Both vessels were constructed at the Seemann Composites Inc. boat-building facility in Gulfport, Miss.

This new class of small boats will serve a very directed function in supporting the management of our national marine sanctuaries.

